

ACTION H-00

INFO	LOG-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	EUR-00	VCI-00	TEDE-00
	INR-00	L-00	VCIE-00	NEA-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	NSCE-00
	OMB-00	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	ISNE-00	SP-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	SA-00	IIP-00	PMB-00
	DRL-00	G-00	SAS-00	/000W			

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7487

INFO CIS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

MOSCOW POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B)

UNCLAS MOSCOW 014927

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, RS

SUBJECT: CODEL CHABOT MEETS DUMA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KOSACHEV

Sensitive but unclassified; handle accordingly.

1. (SBU) SUMMARY. Congressman Steven Chabot (R-Ohio), accompanied by Ambassador Burns, met November 30 with Konstantin Kosachev, Chairman of the Russian State Duma's International Affairs Committee. Chabot raised U.S. concerns about Russia's draft NGO legislation.

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END SUMMARY.

Failure to Discuss Congressional Resolutions on Russia

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, L. HEDGBETH, DAS, A/ISS

REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B)

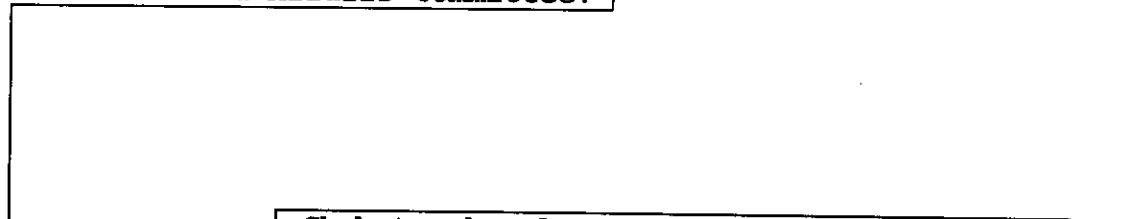
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 4 DEC 2020

DATE/CASE ID: 27 FEB 2009 200706444

DECONTROLLED/UNCLASSIFIED

2. (SBU) Rep. Chabot said there were insufficient contacts between the U.S. Congress and the Duma, and his visit was intended to broaden those contacts. Kosachev welcomed Chabot's initiative, which he felt was supportive of recently increased contacts between his Committee and the House International Affairs Committee.

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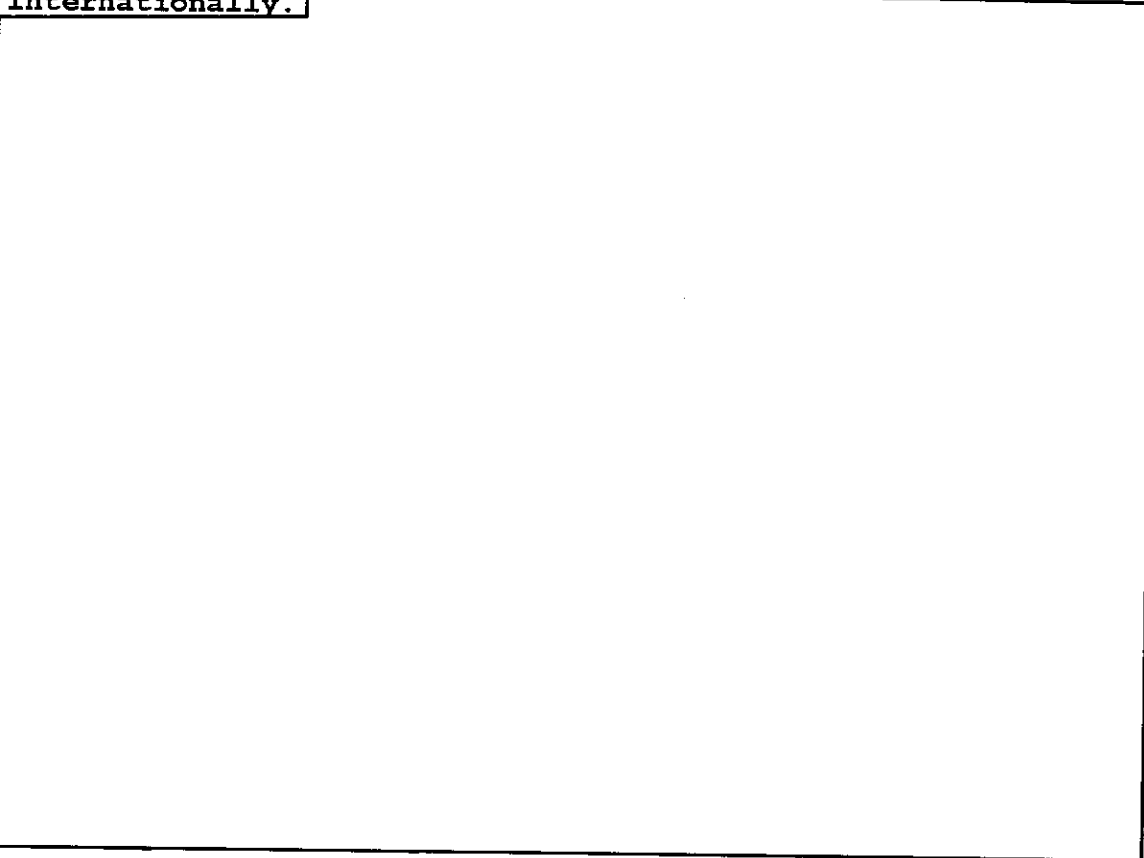


Chabot acknowledged that it would have been better to discuss those concerns face-to-face, and that there was still room for improvement in how the two sides communicate with each other.

NGOs

3. (SBU) Chabot asked Kosachev to address the NGO draft legislation that has caused concern in Russia and internationally.

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6. (SBU) Chabot noted that he had discussed the issue earlier in the day with the American Chamber of Commerce, which also was concerned that it would not be able to undertake charitable activities (e.g., helping the homeless or addressing the HIV/AIDS problem) under the new legislation. What Kosachev had discussed seemed less

sinister than the way the issue was being presented in the U.S. media, where it was seen as part of a broader movement in Russia away from democracy and towards authoritarianism. If that were true, it would be a major problem.

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Chabot acknowledged that the GOR had a right to ensure that NGOs operated within the bounds of Russian law. But in Russia the problem was arising in a context where the bureaucracy had a reputation for creating endless problems. He hoped that a way forward could be found that reconciled all legitimate needs.

Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria

8. (SBU) Chabot noted that his delegation would be traveling on to Afghanistan, and asked for Kosachev's views on developments there.

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9. (SBU) Chabot said Americans were now looking at how U.S. military forces could leave Iraq in a way that made sense for Iraq, as well as for the U.S.

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10. (SBU) Chabot raised Syria as a concern, as it was not doing all it could to keep terrorists out of Iraq, and that resulted in American deaths. The U.S. would be very grateful if Russia would use its influence in Syria to help solve the problem.

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Chabot repeated his hope that Russia would use its good ties with Syria to persuade it to be more cooperative in keeping terrorists out of Iraq.

Secret Prisons

11. (SBU)

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Chabot said he knew only what was in the press. He did not believe that U.S. forces were using torture, although they might use some aggressive interrogation tactics. In the war against terrorism, Chabot said, the global community needed to "do what is possible, within certain limits."

Participation

13. (U) Along with Ambassador Burns, Congressman Chabot was accompanied by HIRC Chief Counsel Jonathan Scharfen, U.S. Army House Liaison Division Chief Col. Michael DeYoung, Minister-Counselor for Political Affairs and Embassy control officer.

14. (U) Congressman Chabot did not have an opportunity to clear this cable before departing from Moscow.
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